



# SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA DX CLUB

SINCE 1947

MAKING FRIENDS ALL OVER THE WORLD

The Southern California DX Club is a proud group of men and women of the world wide Amateur Radio community that enjoys communications with other Amateurs around the world.

The newsletter is published every month and is released to it's members on about the first of each month. Amateur and DX related letters, news and pictures are welcome and will be used as time and space permit. Articles may be republished with the recognition of the author and the Club. Any questions regarding this newsletter or it's articles should be addressed to the Editor. Some articles may be copyright. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month except April, June and December. Other times may occur. Please check the Club web site at



<http://www.scdxc.org>  
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NCDXF #4171

## USING THE MAGIC OF RADIO



THE INTERNATIONAL DX CONVENTION VISALIA  
SINCE 1949

September 2008



ARRL Southwestern Division Convention  
September 12-14, 2008 – Mesa AZ

Produced by Amateur Radio Council of Arizona

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## IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO THE MEMBERS KEEP POLITICS OUT OF THE SCDXC

Despite attempts by individual Board members to convince him to abandon his efforts, one SCDXC member, K6YUI, is on a crusade to impose a politico-religious loyalty oath upon the membership. This member wants every SCDXC meeting to open with the Pledge of Allegiance.

First, a bit of history about the Pledge. It was originally written in 1892 by a fellow named Francis Bellamy. Bellamy was an economic socialist whose self-appointed mission was to establish a socialized economy in the United States. Like many political fundamentalists before and since his time, he believed that true Americans should be willing to take a loyalty oath, and one of his own creation, of course. In this case, it was his Pledge of Allegiance. Over the years, the Pledge has been modified by such groups as the American Legion and the Daughters of the American Revolution. The most drastic change, however, was the result of a crusade by the Catholic Knights of Columbus, and ended in 1954 when the organization succeeded in seeing “under God” added to the Pledge. This effectively transformed the Pledge from being purely a loyalty oath to becoming a public, politico-religious prayer.

The membership of the SCDXC should oppose adopting monthly recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance for the following reasons:

- The Club is strictly non-political. This has been affirmed many times over the years. While the Pledge may seem innocuous, it is in reality an oath that places country above conscience. Geopolitics should not have any role in amateur radio or this DX-dedicated amateur radio club.
- Many object to the “under God”, public prayer-like nature of the Pledge, and no one in a secular Club should feel intimidated into “taking the Pledge” in the manner of peer-coerced recitation. Trying to link patriotism, God, and the SCDXC is unwise, coercive, unnecessary, and not in the apolitical and tolerant spirit of amateur radio.
- No one should be forced to wear national loyalty on his/her sleeve. No one is more or less a patriot for reciting or refusing to recite the Pledge.

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- Imposition of the Pledge will drive a wedge into the membership, separating right wing politico-religious fundamentalists from more open-minded members who see no logical connection between the need to take a politico-religious loyalty oath and the business of the SCDXC.

Attempts to reason with Larry's effort to impose his personal politics and beliefs on the larger Club membership have been unsuccessful to date. No one is preventing him or others from reciting the Pledge on his/their own time, but making every meeting start with the Pledge would be unnecessary, oppressive and, simply, wrong.

The arguments above are my own, and come from my deeply felt sense that there is no logical connection, and one should not be imposed, between the Pledge of Allegiance and the international pursuit of amateur radio. Let's keep politics out of the SCDXC.

J. Wolf, K6JW

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## ALL ABOUT CONTESTING

The ARRL Contest Update Newsletter  
News and Techniques for the Active Operator  
(Formerly the Contester's Rate Sheet)

Are you interested in contesting? Check this web site.

[http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/index.html?issue=2008-08-20#Week\\_Web](http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/index.html?issue=2008-08-20#Week_Web)

All you wanted to know but afraid to ask.

## Congratulations

Mort Eriksen

Old call sign  
New call sign  
New e-mail

KA2UIU  
KA6D  
[ka6d@charter.net](mailto:ka6d@charter.net)

## THE PREZ SEZ



Whew! Another month has come and gone. DXing still has its limitations due to the sun-spots, but that doesn't keep us off the air trying to capture the rare ones. I personally nabbed three new ones. HOORAY!!

I believe the Summer Bash gets better each year. The turnout this year was terrific! The unofficial count was 92. The San Diego group showed up in great numbers. Carpooling was the answer to offset today's high gasoline cost. It would take me a whole page to name all of the SDDXC that came to socialize, eat and share stories. The SCDXC definitely did its part to add to the crowd and the festivities. The BBQ was once again a hit thanks to Keith K6LD; Larry, K6YUI; and Ernie, N6HY. They kept the fire burning until the last of the chicken, hamburger and hot dogs was called for. Thanks to good planning, there was enough food and drink to go around until the last person departed. In spite of how full everyone was, the chocolate cake was wiped-out. Thanks, Keith, for the homemade rub that made the chicken so deeeelicious. And, thanks to all who were able to make it to the IRD's home. You might want to check the website to see pictures taken at the Bash.

Don't forget September's auction-nite meeting. This once-a-year event is always a favorite. It's a great opportunity to clean out your closets, and certainly the bidding wars are always fun to watch. Remember, this year we are trying to change the "boat anchor" auction to include more expensive items. It had been advertised that if anyone has something worth \$50 or more to let our newsletter publisher, Steve/W6NRQ know so he could publicize it before this newsletter got put to bed. We'll see how that worked at the auction.

Till next month, good DXing!! 88's  
Sharon, K6IRD  
President

## FOR THE AUCTION

Hammarlund HQ-100 receiver (no clock but can be added): Minimum bid: \$70  
Offered by Jeff, K6JW

## THE VEEP

Hello Fellow DX'ers,

At the time I am writing this - it is before the summer bash. But by the time you read this... it will be after this wonderful and fun filled event at Sharon and Wayne's house. I hope to see many of you there and know you will have had a fun filled day!



I would like to give a very special thanks to Sharon – K6IRD and Wayne – W6IRD for holding the Summer Bash at their home for all of us to enjoy.

Although I was not able to attend the August meeting due to my work schedule - I have heard nothing but good comments on what a wonderful presentation that was done by John Haslett – KI6MCB. In fact...the reports were so good I have asked him to speak at my other clubs meeting!

I would like to thank Jeff Wolf – K6JW for giving me this contact. As a Vice President...leads such as this for speakers and presentations is always welcomed and appreciated!

This is what being a “club” is all about. Working together towards an interest we all share in.

Coming up for our September 11th meeting...we will be having our yearly Anchors Away Auction! I want to remind all of you to go thru your shack for your unwanted treasures to put thru the auction. Don't be left out – remember to bring lots of cash so you can “cash” in on all the good deals!

Good DX-ing.....See all of you soon!

Tom Paquette N6OT

Vice President - SCDXC



**Secrets of Dxpedition Doctoring ©**  
**Arnold I. Shatz, M.D., FACS**  
**N6HC**

Ever since my first CW contact with Danny Weil, who traveled the world in his sailboat *Yasme*, the thought of going to an exotic isle to set up an amateur radio station and talk to the world intrigued me. It was only after I “retired” from active medical practice that the opportunity presented itself and I could spend six weeks away from home. But there was a proviso that was proffered with the invitation to join a full-fledged, world class DXpedition...providing medical coverage for the team in addition to the usual activities that everyone is expected to do. I knew going to medical school had a golden lining! This was my ticket into the world of the DXpeditioner.

How does one prepare for this responsibility? There is no hospital, pharmacy or surgical supply warehouse on a deserted island to call upon should a contingency arise. What type of medical/surgical situations could present themselves that might require my expertise? What should a DXpedition doctor bring along to adequately deal with these situations? Here is how I decided to provide health services for my teammates.

There are many web sites available that provide guidance regarding necessary vaccinations and precautions that should be taken by visitors to various parts of the world. It is prudent to ask each team member to consult the web site and consider their own health and immunization status against the precautions defined by the experts in travel medicine. <http://www.travmed.com> A thorough check-up by their primary care physician and dentist prior to embarking on long distance travel should be considered mandatory. It is far better to discover a pending problem at home than trying to deal with that same problem with very limited medical resources.

As the medical officer for the trip, I ask for an outline of each team member’s vital statistics, medical and surgical history, the name, dosage and frequency of administration of all medications (prescription and over-the-counter) as well as allergies to foods and medications. This information gives me some insight into what problems I may encounter with each individual and what special medications or supplies may become necessary. Each individual is responsible for bringing their own medications including their treatment of choice for motion sickness. I encourage each member to put a personal first aid kit together. This should include an extra pair of eye glasses, sun screen and sun glasses, SPF lip balm, band-aids, antibiotic ointment, insect repellent and analgesic of choice.

My medical kit contains specialized supplies that may become necessary in specific situations. Much of the contents of this kit are available only to a licensed medical practitioner. Please see Appendix #1.

Notice that there is no cardiac monitor, defibrillator, oxygen tank, Ambu bag or pulse oximeter. I am not in a position to provide advanced cardiac life support on an isolated ocean isle. Fortunately, I have not needed these supplies in the past, but there have been DXpeditions where fatal heart attacks have occurred, e.g., Aves Island DXpedition - April, 2006.



Each individual should have current medical insurance coverage. It is prudent to purchase evacuation insurance should an emergency situation occur and a swift exit from the island becomes mandatory. I have purchased coverage through DAN (Divers Action Network) for \$29.00/year.

On my last two DXpeditions, I have utilized almost everything in my medical kit! Fortunately, I have not been lacking anything in my kit...yet. Since all my trips have included air and sea travel, I have treated motion sickness quite frequently. Prophylactic use of a "scope patch" is highly recommended because seasickness can be accompanied by nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite and dehydration. Being in that state makes you useless as a team member, once landfall is made. Recovery may take a day or two and a valuable set of hands and a strong back are lost to the team setting up the camp and equipment.

Dehydration can occur from plain hard work in the hostile environment of an exposed ocean island. It is mandatory to take frequent work breaks with water consumption, salt tablet supplements or electrolyte solutions. Proper clothing should include long sleeved shirts and pants made from lightweight and quick drying material as well as a broad brimmed hat to protect your ears, nose, lips and neck.

Work gloves protect the hands from lacerations and blisters. Failure to heed this recommendation usually results in a first or second degree sun burn which can incapacitate an individual and make for a very uncomfortable and less than memorable trip. If ice is not available for topical treatment of the burn, then sedation and analgesics are the only relief available

Gastrointestinal disorders are a common problem. The diet on a DXpedition is usually quite different than what one's system has become accustomed. It may be quite salty due to the use of ocean fish as the main entrée. Dehydration can lead to constipation and local water, unless it is bottled, can result in traveler's diarrhea. Food and drinking water safety is key to maintaining a happy intestinal tract. This also includes hand washing prior to eating and after using the "long drop". (If you don't know what that means, take a guess.)

Marine hazards present unique opportunities for medical care. Jellyfish, ray or urchin stings can be quite painful and result in infection. Insect bites by mosquitoes, spiders, bees or ticks present their own set of nuisances. Avoid contact with dangerous marine life, wear protective, aquatic foot covering and liberally use insect repellant.



On two of the three major expeditions in which I have participated, lacerations of the extremities were sustained that required sutures. It was gratifying to both the patient and the physician that we were well prepared.

A case of earwax occluding the external auditory canal resulting in impaired hearing was one of the more unusual maladies that I have managed. A fractured ankle was probably the most serious occurrence that befell one of my teammates.



This is a picture of me digging a "long drop" on TX5C in 117 degree F temperature. Note the proper attire for desert island DXpeditioning, including quick drying polyester long pants and long sleeved shirt, brimmed hat, work gloves and protective footwear (not seen in this photo since I'm standing in a hole!).



Accepting medical responsibility for twelve to twenty-four Dxpeditors can be daunting but very satisfying, especially when you are well prepared and everything goes smoothly. I have played a part in the K7C, 3B7C and TX5C Dxpeditors. I'm looking forward to my next radio and doctoring adventure.

## Appendix #1

Suture set (1) with needle driver, forceps, scissors, hemostats (2) and scalpel (#15 blade)  
Suture removal set (1)  
Bandage scissors (1)  
Sutures: Chromic 4-0, 3-0; nylon 3-0, 2-0 (3 of each size)  
Ophthalmic hand cautery (2)  
Band-aids of various sizes (1 box)  
Steri-strips of various sizes (multiple packs)  
1% & 2% lidocaine (50cc vials)  
Isopropyl alcohol ( 1 pint) and box of individual packets (1)  
Betadine (1 pint)  
Cotton balls (1 bag)  
Gauze pads – Sterile – 4x4 (1 box)  
Sterile cotton tips (1 box)  
Adhesive tape (plastic) 1" roll (5)  
Ace Bandage 2" roll (4)  
Syringes:  
    20cc (3) luer-lock  
    10cc (30) luer-lock  
    5cc (30) luer-lock  
    2cc (30) luer-lock  
    50cc irrigation - catheter tip (2)  
Needles:  
    18G - 1 ½" (30)  
    22G - 1 ½" (30)  
    25G - 1 ½" (30)  
Foley urinary catheter – 16F (1)  
Sterile latex gloves (10 pkgs) size 7 ½"  
Sterile Barrier sheets (box of 10)  
Sterile saline bottles – 500cc (5)  
Sterile water bottles – 500cc (5)  
Sun Block

Insect repellant  
Hand sanitizer foam or pads  
K-Y jelly (3 large tubes)

### Medications:

Transderm Scopolamine patches (25 doses)  
Phenergan injectable – 25 mg dose (multi-dose vial)  
Phenergan tablets – 25 mg dose (50)  
Phenergan suppositories – 25 mg dose (10)  
Benedryl tablets – 50 mg dose (25)  
Cipro tablets – 500 mg dose (50)  
Bactrim D-S tablets (20)  
Ampicillin capsules - 500 mg dose (50)  
Vibramycin – 100 mg dose (50)  
Keflex tablets – 500 mg dose (50)  
Prednisone tablets – 5 mg dose (25)  
Prednisone injectable multi-dose vial (1)  
Kenalog cream (5 tubes)  
Epinephrine 1:100,000 (1 multi-dose vial)  
Toradol injectable (2 multi-dose vials)  
Aspirin 325 mg (200)  
Ibuprofen 200 mg (200)  
Tylenol 650 mg (200)  
Vicodin  
Neosporin ointment (2 tubes)  
OTC "cold" medications  
Pepto-bismol tablets (1 box of 48 tablets)  
Lomotil tablets (50)  
Cortisporin otic ear drops (one bottle)  
Gentamicin ophthalmic ointment or drops

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## ***WHAT'S A DXer?***

**Editorial by Dave Bell, W6AQ**

The day after we got W8LIO's "big beauty" beam up in the air and all of the northeastern Ohio hams who gathered at Jack's shack for the Sunday morning antenna party had gone home, I asked Jack what's DX? All of the hams in Jack's shack had been talking about DX. Being a teenage newbie, I didn't have a clue.

Jack rubbed his chin and said, "Well, David, DX is distance – measured usually in thousands of miles and across oceans. DX is the holy grail of ham radio. Everybody in my shack yesterday was a DXer, and I'm a DXer, and that means you'll be a DXer. No question about it." He paused to let that sink into my 14 year old brain, such as it was. Then he leaned forward and said, "A DXer is a person who'd much rather talk to somebody half a world away than talk to his wife." Jack looked around quickly to see if Ida had overheard that comment. She hadn't.

So that J9AAI station you talked to last week was DX," I said.

"Rare DX," he said. "Ooooookinnaaawaaa!" One station on that spy-fleck of an island. They don't get rarer than that. And I got him using that tiny little 3 element beam! If I'd had the big beauty up I'd of gotten him first call." Jack's "big beauty" was a 33 element corner beam for 10 meters up 75 feet, and I'd help him put it together and get it up!

"DX is different things to different people," Jack said. "And it depends on what frequency you're on. If you're on 2 meters, DX is Pittsburgh. If you're on 160 meters, DX is Mexico or South America or England, if you're lucky. But if you're on 10 meters and the band is open, DX is unlimited."

"So a DXer is someone who talks mostly to other countries," I reiterated, just to make sure I'd gotten it.

More than just talks to them, David, loves talking to them. There are lots of different kinds of DXers and the only thing they really need to be called a DXer is a love of talking to other hams in far off places. That's all. They don't need to do it, some of 'em don't have the stations to do it real easy or often, but if they try and they love it, they're DXers

I learned a lot from Jack, W8LIO, my Elmer into ham radio. His broad definition of a DXer has stuck with me through the years. I think Jack was right. If you love it, you're a DXer. And if a bunch of us DX lovers get together once a month, then we're a DX club, no doubt about it.

Dave can be reached at [W6AQ@aol.com](mailto:W6AQ@aol.com)

**It wasn't about DX, but it was great!**

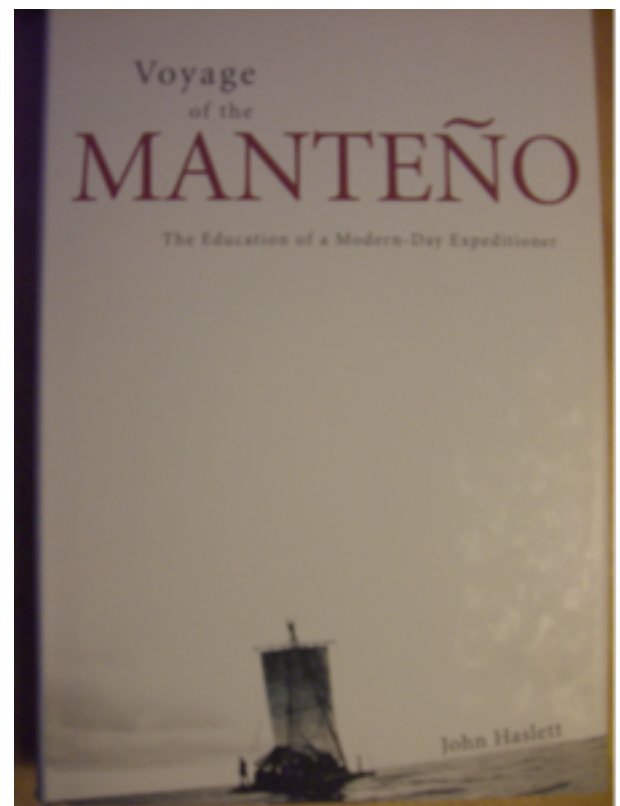
At the August meeting, author/adventurer John Haslett, KI6MCB, presented his adventures on the various incarnations of the Manteno, a balsa log raft that he intended to sail to Tahiti but never made it – with ham radio saving his life at least once.

The Manteno being launched in Ecuador with the help of hundreds of natives.

After the scintillating presentation, the books sold out.

Our VP arranged for this program and he missed it! Too bad Tom. It was terrific!

---W6AQ





A team of seven operators (N6VR, N6IC, N6KZ, NT6AA, WB6BOB, WB6FFE, and WB9AWX), some members of the Southern California DX Club, operated 24-27 Jul 08 from Santa Cruz Island, (IOTA NA-144) for the 2008 IOTA Contest. Despite high temperatures, equipment failures, and swarms of black, biting flies, the team managed to make over 2000 QSOs. QSL route is via each operator's home call. Jim Zimmerman, N6KZ [jimzim1@mindspring.com](mailto:jimzim1@mindspring.com)

Ventura Harbor



SSB Station



NT6AA, Dave  
WA6BOB,  
John

CW STATION



N6VR, Ray, WB9AWX, Jay  
N6VR Station, N6IC, Don



N6KZ, JIM AND HIS BUGS



# Wheatland tunes in for June 28 amateur radio field day event

By Sarah Sorvaag

On a rainy June afternoon, a jumble of scratchy radio reverberations were interrupted by nearly clear voices that spoke call signs and coordinates. A large antenna gathered frequencies by which to communicate information and carry conversations. Amateur radios provide the excitement of communication thousands of miles away without the use of wires or cords.

According to Mark Johnson, President of the Red River Radio Amateurs, the high frequency field day was designed to be a national contest to determine the best group or individual when it comes to equipment operation when away from normal permanent stations, as well

as a simulation of operating when normal means of communications fail. This year's event began at noon on Saturday, June 28, and lasted 24 hours.

The event was free from gimmicks and offered productive practice in addition to entertainment. "You won't see anything in the way of inflatable toys for the kids, games, prizes or bands playing. What you will find is a curious group of people with a common interest in communicating over radio and a strong desire to help others by using the talents developed through our hobby," Johnson said.

## Radio - Page A-2



SARAH SORVAAG / THE REPORTER

Radio operators tuned frequencies at Saturday's field day and made contact with people from various locations.



COURTESY PHOTO

Arnie Shatz (left) and Kent Olson (right) detect signals and confirm coordinates during the field day.



The ICTC Autovon Telephone Switching Facility in rural Wheatland was selected for this event due to its remote location. Tuning faint signals becomes easier for communication when they are free from static that comes from most urban noise such as appliances and other electronics that inadvertently generate radio emissions. The mayor of Tower City, Rod Stoa, who earned his radio license six months ago and is a member of this Fargo ham radio club helped make this facility available for the group.

Johnson insists that ham radio technology is overlooked in the modern society. "In this day and age of email, cheap long distance, and unlimited 'in' minutes with Verizon and nation-wide Nextel push to talk phones, talking to someone across the country isn't as exciting as it once was. The result is that amateur radio has somewhat fallen by the wayside and many people have never even heard of it," he said.

This event gathered not only local ham radio operators but also a worldwide traveler and radio enthusiast. Arnie Shatz, originally from California, participated in Saturday's event. He has been a licensed operator for the last 51 years and uses two different types of Morse

code equipment, along with his computer and radio. He has traveled throughout the world in search of new connections.

For these licensed professionals, the thrill of this hobby is the notion that when all other forms of communication are unavailable, ham radio operations will still be fully functional. "Being able to operate out in the field is important, as 'hams' may be called on to help during times when normal communications are disabled," Johnson said.

This is because these systems can be run on generators, which is the case during the field day.

"Don't get me wrong. I would never give up a cell phone or the Internet. My interest is the challenge. I think it's neat to be able to string up a piece of wire and be able to talk to someone 2,000 miles away without the help of billions of dollars of wires and cables buried underground," he said.

There is no need for intimidation with this hobby either, according to Gurnee Bridgman. There are people available through a multitude of frequencies who are willing to discuss almost any topic.

"There could be very sophisticated subjects. There are medical nets, there are nets designed for

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everything. If there's an interest there's a net out there," he said.

The field day includes a scoring system based on the number of connections to radio operators in other locations.

Despite the soggy weather, the field day in Wheatland offered the opportunity for radio enthusiasts to practice their craft in preparation of

emergency situations. The final tally for the field day has not been calculated yet, but Johnson believes it to be a success.

"We are pretty sure we made more points than we ever have before. Mostly due to Arnie and the multiplier from his Morse code over more traditional phone (voice) modes," he said.

The gentleman sitting next to me in the picture is Kent Olson, KA0LDG, who is the North Dakota ARRL Section Manager. I attended the Red River Radio Amateur club Field Day exercise in Wheatland, North Dakota and manned the CW station using a FT-1000 Mark V and a Hustler vertical. All equipment was graciously loaned to me by Gene Wicklund, W0ZOK from Horace, North Dakota.

### A NOTE FROM YOUR EDITOR

Elsewhere in this issue K6JW makes what I consider to be a very reasoned argument against reciting the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of every SCDXC event or meeting. Here's why I'm against it: We are by definition a DX Club, which means that we'd far rather talk to a ham in Mongolia than chat with one in Missouri. In other words, virtually all of our contacts are with non-Americans. Very often, one of these DX operators visits our club meeting. I think it would be inappropriate to pledge to our flag and "republic" while one of our foreign guests was in the audience. Not only inappropriate but in some ways offensive and certainly rude. Under the circumstances, reciting the pledge is just a bad idea. -- W6AQ

## NEED HELP

I attended a talk on receiving loop antenna's at Visalia last spring. Unfortunately I have lost/misplaced(old age Hi Hi) all the paperwork, notes and his website.

Can someone in the club help. Bruce Wade, N7ZA ex W6FKD  
n7za@sbcglobal.net

## NEWS

The following is from Amateur Radio Newslines. Itchy feet to travel? Never been to Japan? Here's your chance: Hams from around the world are cordially invited to attend the 2nd annual Asia Pacific DX Convention. The event is slated for November 7th through the 9th at the Osaka International House in Osaka, Japan. In addition to the usual presentations and technical sessions, attendees will be given the chance to tour the internationally famous electronics district, visit the Icom factory and to participate in a question and answer session with Icom engineers. More information on this very special ham radio gathering and its tours is on-line at [www.apdxc.org](http://www.apdxc.org).  
(OPDX) Tnx AR Newslines.

## HOLIDAY PARTY RAFFLE PRIZE!

This year's prize is a PALSTAR AT-AUTO 1.5KW automatic antenna tuner. This is a terrific piece of equipment and a worthwhile addition to any shack. If you have a 2 to 1 SWR at one end of the band or the other, this nifty gadget will make it 1 to 1 and your Alpha will thank you.

Available from:  
Cliff Chen, AC6C  
ki6cm.cliff@gmail.com



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As Is. Cash only. Local pick-up; no shipping. (no trades, checks or credit, cash only)

Sell separately:  
FBA-23 Dry Cell tray, new \$29.95, sell \$24.  
NC72B, wall charger, new \$27.95, sell \$16.95.

New-in-Box, Radio Shack, 100 Soldering Gun, new \$29.95 + Tax, sell \$15.00, new  
won in raffle.





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